



Welcome to Adventures in 7th Grade Science!

In 7th grade you will explore topics in physical, earth, and life sciences. In physical science you will learn about motion, forces and Newton’s laws as well as investigate simple machines. Space and space technology will be the focus in earth science and the life science unit will include cells, classification and change over time.

Of course the main idea of science is to explore, so explore we will! You will definitely be doing labs and plenty of them. We will try to do at least one a week. For some investigations I will guide you, but for others your imagination will be the guide. Unfortunately labs aren’t all we can do. There will be some homework, projects, working with technology, quizzes and tests. Most of the time you will be able to start (or even finish) your homework in class. Time in class will also be given for projects (use it well and there won’t be much to do at home). Finally, there will always be a day of review before any big test.

The grading scale for this class is the standard Goddard one of 90% and above = A, etc. and

grades will be organized according to these categories:

* Content Knowledge – 30%
  + - The ability to grasp the basic concepts in physical, earth, and life sciences.
    - May include: portions of homework and labs, sections of quizzes and tests
* Enduring Understanding – 25%
  + - The ability to apply concepts to authentic and/or new situations.
    - May include: portions of homework and lab activities, projects, sections of quizzes and tests
* Science Skills – 25%
  + - The ability to employ inquiry, use the scientific method, and read charts and graphs.
    - Includes: lab activities
* Writing Skills – 10%
  + - The ability to use proper conventions, organization, and style to communicate scientific understanding.
    - May include: projects, lab activities, and essays
* Learning Support Factors – 10%
  + - Student’s *active participation* in their education
    - May include: turning work in on time, class participation, effort, science notebook quality, etc.

General topics for the week, a calendar of homework assignments and copies of worksheets and much more will be on our wiki at kavanaghscience.wikispaces.com. Any assignments or announcements will be verbally given in class and written on a weekly calendar at the front of the room.

The school supplies you will need specifically for science are: a 3 ring notebook and a spiral notebook. All of these are to be used in this class only. You also need pens (black or blue and red), colored markers or pencils, a metric ruler, a calculator, pencils and an eraser. There will be other household items for specific projects. You will always be told of these items at least one week prior to needing them.

If you or your parents have any questions, you are welcome to see me or leave a message at 303-734-6192 or [jkavanagh@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:jkavanagh@lps.k12.co.us).



Here’s to a year of new discoveries and adventures,

Mrs. Kavanagh